

The Northfield Press

Published in the Interest of the People of Northfield and Vicinity

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THE NORTHFIELD PRESS
Northfield, Mass.
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The Town Meeting

The annual town meeting held on Monday, February 4th, in the Town Hall held the interest of the many and throughout the session both morning and afternoon the seats were well filled during which time some forty articles in the Warrant were considered. Called to order promptly at ten o'clock by the Moderator, the Town Clerk read the Warrant and the polls were declared open until six o'clock. Rev. Joseph W. Reeves of the Congregational Church gave the invocation. Recess was taken at the noon hour and the members of the Grange provided a fine lunch. As the recess ended a resolution of appreciation was unanimously passed in recognition of the services of Fred A. Holton as a selectman for twenty years, who declined to again be a candidate. Mrs. Cleland Cochrane was presented a medal from the U. S. Treasury Department for her services as Chairman of the War Finance Committee. Joseph W. Field reported for the special committee on zoning and the report stated that there was no imperative need at present. The report was accepted and the committee discharged. George M. Leonard was chosen as the Park Commissioner and Mrs. Maude Montague was named as a trustee of the Martha Alexander fund. A committee was voted to study and make a survey of the needs of the High School by providing a gymnasium and other rooms necessary to carry on. It is expected that a comprehensive study will be made and the matter presented to the next annual meeting for action by the town. The institution of the Planning Board received favorable consideration as shown by the vote given the candidates. A vote empowered the selectmen to appoint a committee to investigate the needs of land for cemetery purposes and a vote was also passed to authorize the selectmen to take action as may be provided by law to consider all applications for business permits and their licensing and if necessary to hold hearings. All articles in the Warrant were considered as printed in the town report and the total amount of the sums appropriated was \$158,286.42. Of this amount \$24,100 was to be transferred from available funds. Where recommendations were made by the Finance Committee upon the various articles, they were readily accepted in confidence that the committee had given careful consideration to the same. The meeting adjourned at four o'clock to receive the report of the election officials only. The various boards and committees of the town will now organize and appointments for the year will be made.

Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Goodspeed of Worcester recently spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Goodspeed on Main Street and at present Mrs. F. Ambler Welch and son, David, of Hingham are guests. Mrs. Welch was a former resident of this town and her late husband was at one time the owner and editor of the Northfield Press.

Town Officials Chosen

As a result of the election on Monday, February 4, the following officials were chosen to serve:
Josephine S. Haskell, town clerk; Charles F. Slate, town treasurer and tax collector; William F. Hoehn, moderator; Fred S. Merrifield, assessor three years; Mary G. Parker and Horace H. Morse, library trustees for three years; Sidney H. Given, school committee for three years; Carleton Holton, cemetery commissioner for three years; Ernest A. Parker, George W. Carr and George H. Sheldon, selectmen; Dean Williams, tree warden; Harry M. Haskell, Joseph G. Morgan, Martin E. Vorce and Murray Hammond, constables; and Planning Board, George McEwan, one year; Frank Williams, two years; Fred I. Bolton, three years; William E. Park, four years; and Fred Holton, five years.

A total of 341 votes were cast, the largest number for many years. The polls were open from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Organ Dedication
The new electronic organ recently installed by the Estey Company of Brattleboro in Saint Patrick's Church of this town will be dedicated and blessed at a High Mass sung by Rev. Henry J. McCormick on Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock February 10th. The installation of the organ was made possible by the gifts received from over 125 families in Northfield and invitations have been extended them to attend the dedication. The new organ replaces the one that Dwight L. Moody provided some 59 years ago and which has been placed in the Historical Society's collection for preservation.

Organ Now Historical
The Estey organ that D. L. Moody purchased from the Brattleboro manufacturer over sixty years ago in 1885 and presented to St. Patrick Catholic Church here has recently been removed from the church and placed in the Northfield Historical Society Museum. While Mr. Moody lacked the ability to sing, he appreciated the value of music in religious services. (To the list of his musical co-workers credit is due for the royalties on hymn books which finances a Wellesley scholarship fund prior to the founding of his Schools, and erected Stone Hall at Northfield, Recitation Hall at Mount Hermon, and a building for his Chicago Church.) Not long after this organ was put to use, and in appreciation of it, the Catholics of Northfield contributed labor and stone for the foundation of the present Trinitarian Congregational Church. One should be proud of this local history.

Contributions SPCC
For many years the residents of Northfield and the faculty and staff of the Northfield School for Girls have made their annual contributions to the County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, as have the other county townfolk. In Greenfield and Orange this is done through the Community Chests. For the year of 1945, Mrs. Fred Holton reports a collection of over \$106.00 and Miss Elsie Scott of \$103.75. This latter is the largest in some dozen years at the Seminary.

Historical Residence Sold



With the purchase of the imposing old colonial house on Main Street, opposite Dickinson Library by Dr. Ansel B. True of Clinton, Conn., from Luman A. Barber, who greatly improved the same and occupied for a home with his family since his purchase from the Forman estate, some interesting facts are given, previously printed under the title of Northfield homesteads and contained in an article by John Phelps in the local paper under date of July 17, 1931.

It was built probably in the year 1798 for Benjamin Callender who opened a store in the community and occupied the house for residence. About 1812 a merchant came from Dracut, named Doak, and he occupied the house while interested in his work conducted in the Northfield Academy of Useful Knowledge. Doak became involved financially and fled to Canada where he died. Hugh W. Greene was the next occupant and he served as a State Senator. Little is known of Mr. Greene or his family

but the next owner was Lewis J. Powers, a banker from Springfield who bought in 1862 and used the property but a few years for a summer residence. In 1864 he sold to John Mattoon, a Northfield young man who caught the "gold fever" and went to California. Mining was too hard for him and he entered a business and became successful. After returning to his home here, he married and went back to California but upon his wife's death he returned here with his daughter and lived in the house until his death in 1905. Since then his daughter, who became Mrs. Foreman, lived in the south but retained the property for her summer home and made many friends here. She occupied each summer until her death. Mr. Barber purchased from her estate and made many improvements. The house has an air of dignity and most attractive and its spacious lawns with beautiful trees win the admiration of all. Truly it beams as one of our most prominent landmarks.

Mrs. Helen Pollard
Mrs. Helen Field Pollard, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Field of Warwick Ave., died in the Leeds Hospital, January 28, after a brief illness at the age of 28 years. She was born here, January 2, 1918, and attended the local schools. Surviving are her parents; a daughter, Janice; two sisters, Mrs. Delvine Dean and Miss Virginia Field, and four brothers, Charles and Allen of this town, John of Turners Falls and Delvey in the U. S. Marine Corps in the Pacific. Funeral services were held in the vestry of the Unitarian Church, the following Thursday afternoon with Rev. Hazel Gredler officiating, and burial was in the Center Cemetery.

Mrs. Arthur J. Brown
From friends in New York comes the information that Mrs. Jennie E. Thomas Brown, wife of Dr. Arthur J. Brown, secretary emeritus of the Board of Foreign Missions, died at her home in New York on December 24 after a long illness, at the age of 88 years. The funeral services took place in the chapel of the Madison Ave. Church on December 27. Surviving are her husband, two sons and two daughters. Both Dr. and Mrs. Brown are well known in Northfield as former residents and for many years summer residents. They both were much interested in the activities of the Northfield schools and the various conferences.

Nurse Makes Report
Miss Natalie Gowen's report for January is as follows: Total visits, 105; chronic, 47; acute, 17; infant health supervision, 10; adult, 13; pre-school, seven; school, seven; tuberculosis, one; one talk at the Northfield School for Girls; transportation, four; parents, not at home, three. The work of testing eyes at the center school is almost completed and the high school pupils will be tested this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Brainard Willey are now occupying the new home which they have purchased in Winchester. Mr. Willey will continue his work with the East Northfield post office and drive back and forth.

Corp. Gilbert Stacy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Stacy of West Northfield, who entered the first marine division in January, 1943, and went overseas in February, 1944, has been discharged from the Marine Corps at Bainbridge, Md. He is at his home here.

Fortnightly Program

In Alexander Hall, Friday afternoon, February 1, the Fortnightly met in scheduled session with Mrs. George Sheldon, president, presiding and after a short business meeting, introduced the guest speaker, Miss Marion Halkett, executive of the Travelers Aid at Springfield. She gave the story of the organization and described its active efforts. A social hour followed and musical selections were rendered by Miss Portia Chamberlain with Mrs. George Leonard at the piano. The tea hostesses were Miss Mercy Brann, Mrs. Thomas Parker and Mrs. Bernard Whitney. At the close of the gathering, Mrs. Cleland Cochrane and Mrs. Stanley Bistrek conducted a food sale for the benefit of the senior class spring pilgrimage. The next meeting of the Fortnightly will be Friday, February 15, when a musicale is scheduled with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Raymond as soloists and Carleton L'Hommiedieu as pianist. The tea hostesses are Mrs. Martin Vorce, Miss Marion Holton, Mrs. David B. Hammond and Mrs. Harvey Jack.

In Excellent Condition

From the State House at Boston, of the office of the director of accounts, Department of Corporations and Taxation, has come a report to Fred A. Holton, chairman of the selectmen of the result of the examination made by representatives of the department recently. This report is published in full in the Town Report and makes interesting reading to the residents of the town. The balance sheet of the town as of December 31, 1945, showed the town to be in "excellent financial condition." The total assets were \$73,796, including: Cash, \$50,489; taxes due, 187,165 of 1944 and 1945, \$16,126; motor vehicle excise taxes due, 1945 levy, \$204; timber salvage taxes, 1940, 1941 and 1942, \$8,589; tax titles, \$1,181; departmental bills, \$808; underestimate 1945 county tax, to be raised this year, \$42.32. Liabilities included: Overestimate state parks and reservations tax, \$19.54; road machinery fund, \$8,452; tax collector's costs, \$39.60; tailings, \$20.38; reserve fund, overlay surplus, \$2,073; overlay reserved for abatements, \$2,778; surplus revenue, \$46,639. The town had 15 trust accounts aggregating \$62,733.

Founders Day Observed

At Mount Hermon School and at the Northfield School for Girls, Founders Day, February 5th, was appropriately observed as in former years. Dr. Raymond Calkins, pastor of the First Church of Cambridge and author of many religious books was the guest speaker at the morning gathering. The day's program included winter sports, a snow sculpturing contest, skiing and outdoor picnic and the sleighride. There was a movie at Hermon and a song contest in Silverthorne Hall on the Northfield campus. Founders Day commemorates the birthday of Dwight L. Moody, who started the two schools 67 years ago.

| LATCHIS MEMORIAL | BRATTLEBORO | AUDITORIUM |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 2:15 | 6:30 | 8:30 |
| Fri.-Sat.—Feb. 8-9 | Sun.-Mon.—Feb. 10-11 | |
| UP GOES MAISIE | HURRICANE | |
| Ann Sothern George Murphy | John Hall Dorothy Lamour | |
| Sat.—Feb. 9 | Tues.—Feb. 12 | |
| FIT FOR A KING | THE LADY VANISHES | |
| Sun.-Thurs.—Feb. 10-14 | Wed.-Thurs.—Feb. 13-14 | |
| SPELLBOUND | HER ENLISTED MAN | |
| Ingrid Bergman Gregory Peck | Barbara Stanwyck | |
| Fri.-Sat.—Feb. 15-16 | Fri.-Sat.—Feb. 15-16 | |
| LETTER FOR EVIE | CAPTAIN TUGBOAT ANNIE | |
| Marsha Hunt John Carroll | Jane Darwell Edgar | |

| PARAMOUNT |
|-----------------------------|
| BRATTLEBORO |
| Sun.-Tues.—Feb. 10-12 |
| TOKYO ROSE |
| Byron Barr Lotus Long |
| Wed.-Thurs.—Feb. 13-14 |
| ONE WAY TO LOVE |
| Janis Carter Chester Morris |
| Fri.-Sat.—Feb. 15-16 |
| CLUB HAVANA |
| Tom Neal Margaret Lindsay |

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Sunday Afternoon, February 10, 1946, at 3:15 o'clock

Town Topics

Valentine P. Plotczyk, S1/C, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Plotczyk of West Northfield, has received his discharge from the navy at Boston and is at his home here. He saw service in Japan and was at Okinawa when the typhoon struck. He entered the service in January, 1942, and wears the A.P. ribbon and the Philippines liberation ribbon with one star.

The American Youth Hostel Organization has issued and distributed to members the winter edition of the Knapsack, which contains the eleventh annual report of its directors, Monroe and Isabel Smith. It is a most interesting report which lays emphasis on its activities but unfortunately reveals a deficit in its financial record. There is evidence of extended activities in the summer season ahead.

Leon Dunnell, our well-known teacher of piano, has had installed in his home an electronic organ from the Estey Company of Brattleboro. He expects to entertain his friends soon with an organ recital.

A new dime has been coined by the Treasury bearing the portrait of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was released for circulation on February 5th. Wonder who was the first in Northfield to get one.

The Grange served the dinner to the meeting of the dairymen of the county in Grange Hall Wednesday noon, January 30. Mrs. Gertrude Gibson was chairman of the committee in charge.

During the two recent sittings of the Registrars, there was added to the list of voters for Northfield, thirty-five names. This makes an enrollment of 994 voters of which 519 are women and 475 are men. This looks as if the women could dominate the scene.

Town Topics

A very pleasing concert was given Saturday evening, January 26th, in Silverthorne Hall of the Northfield School for Girls. The glee clubs of the Girls School and of Mount Hermon School, under the direction of Albert Raymond rendered several selections and the Northfield Schools orchestra under the direction of Milton Aronson presented a most pleasing program. The hall was well filled with students.

Mr. and Mrs. Teofel Dymersky of the Farms have announced the engagement of their daughter, Helen Sophie, to Ted Gloski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gloski of Millers Falls. No date has been set for the wedding.

The heavy snowfall of Wednesday, the 30th, followed by the sleet and mist have turned the woodlands into a fairyland with the trees covered with an icy coating and glistening even in the dark and cloudy atmosphere. Many visitors and some residents went about to view the scenes.

Rev. Joseph W. Reeves, minister of the local Congregational Church, was the speaker at the "University of Life" session, Sunday evening, January 27th, at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. His subject was of "World Peace."

The Garden Club, whose scheduled meeting and dinner was announced for Monday evening, February 11th, has been postponed to the first Monday evening in March. Members will receive full information as to the date and program later.

In a letter received by assistant headmaster Arthur D. Platt of Mount Hermon School, Ross L. Spencer, Jr., writes from Iceland, where he is a private with squadron A, 1386th AAF base unit, that he is enjoying his experience in the service and finds the country very interesting.

Marriage Announced

Francis Plotczyk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Plotczyk, of West Northfield, and Cella Templement of Southbridge were married Wednesday, December 26, in Southbridge at St. Anne's Church.

Plotczyk was recently discharged from the army, after four years with the engineers in the Pacific, where he attained the rating of technical sergeant.

Miss Jeanette Plotczyk was bridesmaid at her brother's wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Plotczyk are making their home in Southbridge.

A group of friends surprised Percy Richmond of Mount Hermon on his 80th birthday Sunday, January 27th, when he was greeted while sipping tea in the Reception Room of Overton Hall. He went to work the next day in the carpenter shop at Mount Hermon as though he had 80 more years to go.

Physicians of Hinsdale and Winchester have joined with other doctors in the county in publishing their new uniform fees effective February first. Office calls, \$2; and house calls, \$3.

Gilbert Gredler, son of Rev. Hazel Gredler who was recently discharged from the American field service attached to the British army and has been visiting his mother here, has resumed his studies at the University of New Hampshire.

The trustees of the Northfield Schools held their mid-winter meeting in New York City recently attended by President William E. Park, George McEwen and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baldwin, with their daughter, Katherine, and young son spent a recent weekend at the Northfield Hotel. They are residents of Springfield, but for many years summer residents here.

Town Topics

Mrs. Lincoln Hammond of the Farms is great grandmother to a daughter, Olive, born to Corp. Richard and Mrs. Warner at the Brattleboro Hospital, January 28. Corp. Warner is on furlough at present.

Corp. Kenneth A. Franz, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Franz of Main Street, has received his discharge from the army which he entered in February, 1943. He trained at Camp Hale in Colorado and served in Italy with the 10th Mountain Infantry. He is a Hermon graduate and was a student at Yale University.

Calvin Greenwood, BM-1c, has been discharged from the navy which he entered in September, 1942. He has seen service in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific area and is now at his home here. He was a student at Middlebury College when he enlisted and expects to continue his college work.

The local Post of the American Legion who have their rooms in the Town Hall have announced that the rooms will be open and available for use each Tuesday and Friday evening to members and other veterans. The rooms are equipped with a pool table and facilities for other games.

Staff Sgt. Leonard W. Barnes of the army has been discharged from the service at Bowman Field, Kentucky. He enlisted in July, 1942, and has been stationed at various camps in this country, where he was engaged in commissary.

The local group of Girl Scouts are quite active this winter season. Recently those who are working for a cooking badge entertained their mothers and guests at Center School with a supper under the direction of Mrs. Wells. On Wednesday afternoon, February 6, the group in home nursing gave a demonstration at the Town Hall. Other groups met for cooking study while this week Friday, the 8th, a number will go to the Library to work under the direction of the Scout leader, Mrs. Benjamin Andrews.

The next meeting of the local Parent-Teacher Association will be held Monday, February 11, at the Town Hall when the speaker will be Dr. William G. Vinal, professor of nature education at State College. He will talk on "careers for youth in nature leadership."

The many friends of Mrs. William J. McRoberts will regret to hear that she is very ill at her home in Brooklyn. With her late husband and family she enjoyed summer residence here for many years and the estate in Mountain Park was one of the most attractive.

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